

10/784,553

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A process for purification of an acrylic acid family, which is a process for distillation
purification of the acrylic acid family,

with the process comprising the steps of supplying
liquid from a distillation column to at least two reboilers
and returning a heat-boiled vapor from said at least two
reboilers to the distillation column,

with the process comprising the step of selecting An
apparatus for purification of an acrylic acid family, which
is an apparatus for distillation purification of the acrylic
acid family encompassing acrylic acid and its esters, and
comprises+ with said apparatus comprising:

[a] said distillation column to which a liquid
containing the acrylic acid family is supplied, and from the
column top of which a vapor is retrieved, and from the
column bottom of which a liquid is retrieved, wherein an
outer diameter of the distillation column is in a range of 2
to 6 m, a height of the distillation column is in a range of
2 to 40 m, and a capacity of the distillation column is in a
range of 0.5 to 100 m³;

a condenser which is connected to the column top side
of the distillation column, and to which the vapor having
been retrieved from the distillation column is supplied, and
which condenses the supplied vapor and then refluxes a
portion of the resultant condensate to the distillation
column, and from which the residual condensate is retrieved;
and

10/784,553

~~a reboiler which is said at least two reboilers, with said at least two reboilers being connected to the column bottom side of the distillation column, and to which the liquid in the distillation column is supplied, and which heat-boils the supplied liquid and then returns it to the distillation column;~~

~~wherein the reboiler is set in a number of at least two said at least two reboilers are set in parallel to the distillation column in order to prevent channeling of the liquid or vapor in the distillation column, thus preventing formation and adhesion of polymer and clogging caused therefrom in the distillation column and the said at least two reboilers.~~

2. (currently amended) An apparatus A process for purification of an acrylic acid family according to claim 1, wherein the condenser is disposed in a number of at least two in parallel to the distillation column.

3. (currently amended) An apparatus A process for purification of an acrylic acid family according to claim 1, wherein said at least two reboilers are connected to the column bottom of the distillation column in such a way that pressure drops caused when the liquid passes from the column bottom to the said at least two reboilers are equal in order to avoid a problem of liquid, being retrieved from the distillation column, having a bias toward a specific reboiler.

4. (currently amended) An apparatus A process for purification of an acrylic acid family according to claim 1, wherein the liquid-retrieving pipes, through which the said at least two reboilers and the distillation column are

10/784,553

connected to each other, are equal or symmetrical with respect to the distillation column as a center.

5. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus A process~~ for purification of an acrylic acid family according to claim 1, wherein said at least two reboilers are connected to the distillation column in such a way that pressure drops caused when the liquid passes from the said at least two reboilers to the distillation column are equal in order to well disperse gas into the distillation column.

6. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus A process~~ for purification of an acrylic acid family according to claim 1, wherein vapor-returning pipes are equipped separately to individual reboilers.

7. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus A process~~ for purification of an acrylic acid family according to claim 1, wherein positions of connections of vapor-returning pipes from the said at least two reboilers to the distillation column are disposed symmetrically as to the distillation column.

8. (canceled).